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Germany

Livestock and Products

BSE in Germany - Update covering the first half year of 2004

2004

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Report Highlights:

From January through June 2004, 33 cases of BSE were confirmed in Germany, compared to 13 and 54 during the same period in 2003 and 2002, respectively. Until July 8, two more cases were confirmed taking the total number of BSE cases to 327, since its first detection in Germany in November 2000. In Germany all cattle older than 24 month at slaughter have to be tested for BSE, compared to 30 months in the EU. The ongoing discussion about testing age will likely result in a change to 30 month sometime in 2005.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

In the first six month of 2004, 33 cases of BSE were confirmed. As of June 30, 2004, the total number of confirmed BSE cases in Germany amounted to 325 cases. Out of these, 7 cases were detected in 2000, 125 cases in 2001, 106 cases in 2002, 54 cases in 2003, and 33 from January through June 2004. From July 1 through 8, 2004, two additional cases were confirmed. The geographical distribution of the confirmed cases is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Geographical distribution of confirmed BSE cases in Germany, as of June 30, 2004.

State	Number of confirmed BSE cases						Number of cattle in that state	Cases per 1 million head
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	total		
Bavaria	5	59	27	21	12	124	3,689,200	34
Lower-Saxony	1	17	27	7	8	60	2,627,700	23
Baden-Wuerttemberg	-	12	11	9	3	35	1,099,600	32
Schleswig-Holstein	1	12	14	1	-	28	1,228,200	23
North Rhine-Westphalia	-	2	2	4	5	13	1,390,400	9
Saxony	-	4	4	3	-	11	511,900	21
Brandenburg	-	3	4	3	1	11	601,200	18
Rhineland-Palatinate	-	4	6	-	-	10	403,900	25
Saxony-Anhalt	-	4	4	1	-	9	361,000	25
Hesse	-	3	2	2	1	8	477,500	17
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	-	2	4	-	2	8	557,300	14
Thuringia	-	2	1	3	1	7	363,600	19
Saarland	-	1	-	-	-	1	53,700	19
Berlin, Bremen, Hamburg	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,600	0
Total	7	125	106	54	33	325	13,385,800	24

* Animal census November 2003

(Source: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture)

BSE tests

From January through June 2004, a total of 1,256,384 BSE tests were conducted in Germany, of which 33 BSE cases were confirmed. Out of these, 16 cases were discovered through routine testing at slaughter. All other cases were detected through mandatory testing of "risk animals". Risk animals include perished animals, animals that died on transport, downers (i.e. non-ambulatory animals), animals that show any kind of disease symptoms, and animals that show clinical BSE symptoms.

Since January 25, 2001, BSE tests at slaughter became mandatory in Germany for all cattle above the age of 24 months. However, some retail chains require the testing of all cattle, irrespective of age. Testing below the age of 24 month is purely for marketing reasons and does not supply any additional value in terms of BSE measures, as tests on younger animals are not very reliable. In 2001 – 2003, between 65 and 70 percent of all cattle and calves slaughtered in Germany were tested for BSE.

The EU requires testing for cattle above 24 months only for risk animals, while routine testing of appearing healthy cattle is only required for cattle above 30 months. There is an ongoing discussion in Germany to move the testing age from 24 to 30 month. One argument of the proponents is that so far only one BSE case was confirmed in animals younger than 30 month at slaughter. This case was detected in January of 2001, and occurred in an animal that was born before the ban on meat- and bonemeal (MBM) in animal feeds went into effect in December 2000. Theoretically from June 2003 onwards all animals slaughtered at 30 month or older should not have had contact with feed containing MBM. The German Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMVEL) in general favors a change of the obligatory testing age, however, BMVEL insists on an extra security time margin. We therefore expect the change will go into effect sometime in 2005.

Table 2: BSE tests and results from January through June 2004

January - June 2004	Number of tests	Number of confirmed BSE cases	Percent cases per tests in that group*	Percent cases of all confirmed cases**
perished animals	118,142	13	0.011	39.4
put-down animals	4,830	1	0.021	3.0
animals showing clinical symptoms	3,379	0	0.000	0.0
animals appearing healthy at slaughter	1,128,403	16	0.001	48.5
animals put down in a BSE eradication measure	722	0	0.000	0.0
suspicious animals to be confirmed by a lab	908	3	0.330	9.1
Total	1,256,384	33	0.003	100

* calculated as "number of confirmed cases" divided by "number of tests" in that category multiplied by 100

** calculated as "number of confirmed cases" in a category divided by "total number of confirmed cases" * 100

Source: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture

Risk Management by the German Government

For a detailed outline of the German risk management system please refer to report GM1033.

Production

In CY 2003, Germany produced 1.224 million MT of beef. 180,000 MT of beef were imported, thereof 66,000 MT from outside the EU-25 (mainly Argentina and Brazil) and 13,800 from new EU-member states (Poland and Hungary). Exports amounted to 4,423,000 MT of which 83,000 MT were sent to destinations outside the EU-25 (mostly Russia) and 2,800 MT to Hungary, Malta and the Czech Republic. Note: All figures are in carcass weight equivalent.

Table 3: German production of beef

Year	Slaughter number (in 1000 heads)	Beef production (in 1000 metric tons)
1999	4,565	1,374
2000	4,285	1,304
2001	4,353	1,360
2002	4,272	1,317
2003	3,961	1,224

Source: German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture

Related reports:

GM1033	11/27/2001	One year after the detection of BSE in Germany
GM3002	01/03/2003	BSE in Germany – update
GM3006	02/27/2003	German Cattle Identification and Beef Labeling
GM3020	07/17/2003	BSE in Germany – update covering the first half year of 2003
GM4002	01/08/2004	BSE in Germany – update covering 2003